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# MARINE MAMMALS STRANDED ON THE GALICIAN COAST (NW SPAIN) IN 1991.

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93 strandings of marine mammals (cetaceans and pinnipeds) on the Galician coast were collated during 1991. Only one animal was involved in each stranding.

Nine different species of cetaceans were found, the most frequent being the common dolphin (Delphinus delphis), the bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus), the common porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) and the long-finned pilot whale (Globicephala melas). Two different species of pinnipeds were also observed during 1991, the grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) and the ringed seal (Phoca hispida).

In at least 6 cases the animals were alive when first stranded, and of these three died later (28,47,91) and the other three were satisfactorily rescued (22,48,84).

Three strandings were caused by accidental catches (12,89,93), two of which involved pinnipeds. Another accidental catch (66) was known to occur although the animal was not landed. In three other cases (14,64,88) the animals were found with ropes and pieces of fishing gear entwined around its body which could be interpreted as previous interactions with fishing operations.

Anomalous stomach contents were found in some animals (2,13,68,74) such as plastic and pieces of nets.

The spatial distribution of strandings on the Galician coast is shown in the map (FIGURE 1).

The temporal distribution is shown in TABLE 1 and FIGURE 2 respectively. Two annual peaks are observed in the number of stranding events, one corresponds to the Jan-Fev-March period and the other one to the autumn months. In general, summer is the period when less strandings are registered. There is a coincidence between the seasonality of all the strandings and the one of Delphinus delphis (41% of the strandings).

The greater number of strandings reported in 1991, in comparison with the 1990 figure (47 events) is in part a consequence of a better coordination between the different groups involved in the stranding watch and the efforts to establish a centralised reporting scheme for this region.

However the influence of other factors such as meteorological conditions, diseases, etc., in the increase of the strandings cannot be ruled out.



SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	T
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>		1											1
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	1												1
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	1												1
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	1		2	1	1					2	1	1	9
<i>Globicephala melas</i>		3	2	1							1	2	9
<i>Grampus griseus</i>				1				1					2
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>			3	1			1						5
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	4	9	14			1	1			4	3	2	38
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	1	2	1	1		2				1	1	3	12
Unidentified cetaceans		1	1			3	1				4		10
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	2												2
<i>Phoca hispida</i>							1						1
Unidentified pinnipeds	2												2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>93</b>

TABLE 1

## N. ANIMALS

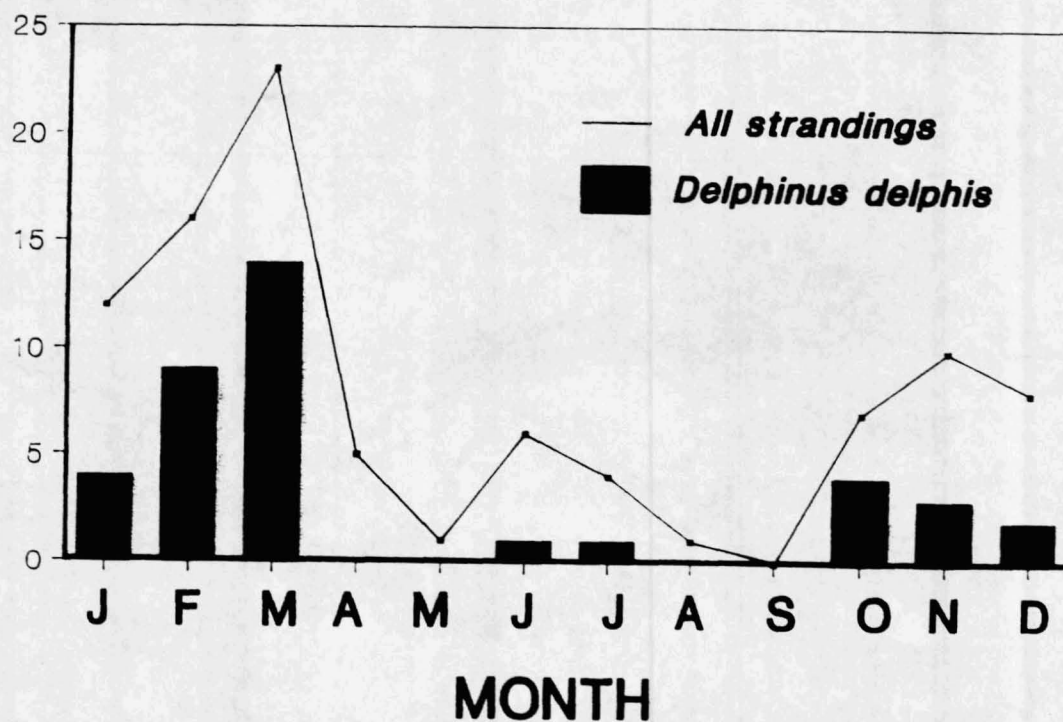


FIGURE 2

	DATE	LENGTH (m.)	SEX	LOCATION	OBSERVER	REMARKS
<u>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</u>						
1	11.02.91	8	FEM.	42°35'N 9°06'W	E. FERNANDEZ (AGCE).	Approximate measurement.
<u>Ziphius cavirostris</u>						
2	19.01.91	6.5	FEM.	42°28'N 8°56'W	E. FERNANDEZ (AGCE).	Plastic in the stomach.
<u>Physeter macrocephalus</u>						
3	02.01.91	5	MALE	42°33'N 8°58'W	S. MATO (CEMMA).	Lactating. Probable propeller injuries.
<u>Phocoena phocoena</u>						
4	12.01.91	1.95		42°38'N 9°03'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
5	03.03.91	1.32	MALE	42°54'N 9°15'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA).	
6	05.03.91		MALE	43°34'N 8°18'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	
7	03.04.91	1.31		42°33'N 8°55'W	C. LUCIARTE (ERVA).	
8	25.05.91			42°12'N 8°54'W	A. FOLGAR (ERVA).	
9	02.10.91			43°17'N 8°41'W	C. PENAS (SGHN).	
10	05.10.91			42°50'N 9°06'W	E. ABATI (SGHN).	
11	16.11.91			43°42'N 7°36'W	TEIRA (ERVA).	
12	12.12.91	1.55	FEM.	42°24'N 8°51'W	J.J. BESADA (CEOS).	Accidental catch.
<u>Globicephala melas</u>						
13	03.02.91	2.3	FEM.	42°28'N 8°55'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA).	Plastics in the stomach. Juvenile.
14	20.02.91		MALE	42°33'N 8°58'W	A. CALLON.	Found with a rope around the caudal fin.
15	22.02.91	4.15	MALE	42°28'N 8°56'W	E. FERNANDEZ (AGCE).	
16	03.03.91	2.87	FEM.	43°19'N 8°47'W	A. BARTOLOME (SGHN).	Juvenile.
17	07.03.91		MALE	42°35'N 8°58'W	C. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
18	06.04.91	2.5	FEM.	42°24'N 8°42'W	J. PEÑAS.	Juvenile.
19	16.11.91	4		43°05'N 9°15'W	L. SAMPEDRO (CEMMA).	Only the skel. was found. Approx. measur.



	DATE	LENGTH (m.)	SEX	LOCATION	OBSERVER	REMARKS
20	13.12.91	5.40	MALE	43°33'N 7°03'W	J.M. RAÑON (CEMMA).	
21	19.12.91	4.4		42°27'N 8°55'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	

Grampus griseus

22	25.04.91	3.5-4		42°20'N 8°38'W	S. LENS (IEO).	Live stranding. Rescued. Approx. measur.
23	18.08.91	2.08		43°34'N 8°18'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	

Stenella coeruleoalba

24	03.03.91			42°54'N 9°16'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA).	Incomplete animal.
25	20.03.91	1.98	FEM.	42°27'N 8°53'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	
26	21.03.91	2.18	FEM.	42°43'N 9°07'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
27	21.04.91	1.80	MALE	43°27'N 8°17'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	
28	16.07.91			41°54'N 8°53'W	(ANABAM).	Stranded alive some days before.

Delphinus delphis

29	03.01.91	1.10	MALE	43°39'N 8°03'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	Incomplete measur. (skull absent).
30	03.01.91	1.30	FEM.	43°39'N 8°03'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	Incomplete measur. (skull absent).
31	20.01.91			43°11'N 9°11'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA).	Only the skeleton was found.
32	29.01.91	2.03	FEM.	42°45'N 9°06'W	A. LOPEZ (CEMMA).	
33	01.02.91	1.52	FEM.	43°34'N 8°18'W	V. RIVERO (SGHN).	
34	08.02.91	2	MALE	42°28'N 8°55'W	J.R. MEIS (CEOS).	Incomplete measur. (caudal fin absent).
35	10.02.91	1.69	MALE	42°38'N 9°04'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
36	13.02.91			42°49'N 9°08'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	Only the skull found (39.5 cm.).
37	15.02.91	1.97	MALE	43°34'N 8°18'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	
38	18.02.91	1.67	MALE	42°56'N 8°29'W	ESCALANTE (CEOS).	Some other dolphins swimming around.
39	18.02.91	1.89	MALE	43°29'N 8°18'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	
40	24.02.91	1.48		42°34'N 9°03'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
41	26.02.91	2.08	MALE	43°35'N 8°10'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	
42	01.03.91	1.93	MALE	43°30'N 8°18'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	
43	02.03.91			42°27'N 8°53'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	

	DATE	LENGTH (m.)	SEX	LOCATION	OBSERVER	REMARKS
44	02.03.91	1.48	FEM.	42°32'N 8°53'W	X.L. REY (SGHN).	
45	03.03.91	1.5	MALE	43°40'N 7°22'W	M. BARRO (CEMMA).	Approximate measurement.
46	05.03.91		MALE	43°34'N 8°18'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	
47	11.03.91	1.97	FEM.	42°30'N 8°55'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	Live stranding.
48	11.03.91	1.57	FEM.	42°27'N 8°53'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	Live stranding. Rescued.
49	19.03.91	1.73	FEM.	42°27'N 8°55'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	
50	19.03.91	2.08	FEM.	43°30'N 8°18'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).	
51	21.03.91			42°27'N 8°55'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	Only parts of the skeleton, skull 39 cm.
52	23.03.91	0.7		42°13'N 8°50'W	A. FOLGAR (ERVA).	Incomplete measur. (caudal fin absent).
53	29.03.91	2		43°19'N 8°49'W	C. LOPEZ (CEMMA).	
54	29.03.91	1.3	MALE	43°17'N 8°41'W	A. LOPEZ (CEMMA).	Incomplete measur. (skull absent).
55	30.03.91			42°44'N 9°06'W	E. FERNANDEZ (AGCE).	
56	08.06.91			42°18'N 8°49'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA).	Only parts of the skeleton, skull 40 cm.
57	27.07.91	1.84	FEM.	42°28'N 8°55'W	S. LENS (IEO).	
58	13.10.91	2.04	MALE	42°31'N 9°01'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA).	
59	20.10.91	1.56	MALE	43°09'N 9°13'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
60	20.10.91	1.56	MALE	43°09'N 9°13'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
61	31.10.91	2.2	MALE	42°18'N 8°55'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	
62	06.11.91	2.15	MALE	42°26'N 8°52'W	S. LENS (IEO).	
63	23.11.91	2.08	MALE	42°34'N 9°03'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	Separate stranding from the next one.
64	23.11.91	1.9	MALE	42°34'N 9°03'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	Ropes found on the head and caudal fin.
65	01.12.91	1.76	FEM.	42°38'N 9°03'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
66	18.12.91	2		42°21'N 9°00'W	J.J. BESADA (CEOS).	Accidental catch. Approximate measur.

Tursiops truncatus

67	06.01.91	2.87	MALE	42°41'N 9°01'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
68	03.02.91	2.65	MALE	42°55'N 9°16'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA).	Net in the stomach.
69	20.02.91	2.6	MALE	42°33'N 8°58'W	A. CALLON.	Approximate measur. Caudal fin absent.
70	22.03.91	2.7		42°31'N 9°01'W	MONCHO (CENAR).	
71	07.04.91	2.58	FEM.	42°28'N 8°55'W	P. BENAVENTE (CEOS).	
72	02.06.91			42°55'N 9°16'W	M. BARREIRO (CEMMA).	
73	15.06.91	2.69	MALE	42°27'N 8°55'W	E. FERNANDEZ (AGCE).	

DATE	LENGTH (m.)	SEX	LOCATION	OBSERVER	REMARKS
74	12.10.91	2.96	MALE	42°38'N 9°03'W	A. BAREIRO (CEMMA). Net in the stomach.
75	13.11.91	2.50	MALE	43°32'N 8°18'W	J. IGNACIO (SGHN).
76	07.12.91	2.55	FEM.	42°49'N 9°08'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).
77	07.12.91	3.08	FEM.	42°35'N 8°56'W	REY (SGHN).
78	28.12.91	2.2	FEM.	42°35'N 8°58'W	X.M. OUJO (AGCE).

#### Unidentified cetaceans

79	13.02.91			42°41'N 9°07'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA). Probably Tursiops.
80	03.03.91			42°55'N 9°16'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA). Incomplete animal.
81	01.06.91			43°13'N 9°02'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA). Incomplete animal. Probably Tursiops.
82	12.06.91			42°07'N 8°48'W	A. FOLGAR (ERVA).
83	14.06.91			42°09'N 8°50'W	F. ARCOS (ERVA).
84	01.07.91	8-10		43°45'N 7°52'W	PRESS. Live stranding. Rescued. Approx. measur.
85	02.11.91			43°12'N 9°10'W	M. DACOSTA (CEMMA). Only some bones. Probably Tursiops.
86	03.11.91	1.5		42°08'N 8°51'W	C. LUCIARTE (ERVA). Approximate measurement.
87	15.11.91			42°43'N 9°00'W	J.L.G. ALLUT (SGHN).
88	24.11.91			42°11'N 8°49'W	S. LENS (IEO). Prob. accid. catch. Ropes on the tail.

#### Halichoerus grypus

89	26.01.91	1.14	FEM.	42°28'N 9°59'W	J.C. CABRERO (CEMMA). Accidental catch.
90	26.01.91	1.04		42°50'N 9°06'W	J.L.G. ALLUT (SGHN).

#### Phoca hispida

91	27.07.91	1.14	MALE	42°21'N 8°39'W	S. LENS (IEO). Found alive, died 5 days later.
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#### Unidentified pinnipeds

92	12.01.91			42°43'N 9°00'W	A. BARREIRO (CEMMA).
93	17.01.91			42°28'N 9°59'W	J.C. CABRERO (CEMMA). Accidental catch.



## ORIGIN OF THE COMMUNICATIONS

**AGCE:** Asociación gallega para la cultura y la ecología. (Pers. comm.).

**ANABAM:** Asociación naturalista do Baixo Miño. (Pers. comm.).

**CEMMA:** Coordinadora para o estudio dos mamíferos mariños.

**CENAR:** Colectivo ecoloxista e naturalista de Riveira. (Pers. comm.).

**CEOS:** Colectivo ecoloxista "O Salnés". (Pers. comm.).

**IEO:** Instituto Español de Oceanografía.

**SGHN:** Sociedade galega de Historia Natural. (Boletín Arroás, 1992).